



MONTHLY REPORT DECEMBER 2018

Commercial and Recreational Fisheries

- Duck Creek opened on December 1, and more than 40 people were harvesting shellfish all over town – from Lieutenant Island South to Duck Creek to boats in the Main Harbor that Saturday.
- 2019 shellfishing permits went on sale Monday, December 3, and by the end of the month 96 recreational permits and 64 commercial permits were sold, totaling \$17,819.00.
- We were closed twice for temperatures below 28 degrees. This is because when it gets that cold shellfish can be damaged during harvest and die. We put the ball up at the pier and posted it to our public Facebook page.
- Boats are bringing in good catches of bay scallops and blood clams, as well as some oysters.
- A rough, conservative estimate of commercial catches for the month is more than 200 bushels of oysters and 50 bushels of quahogs as tracked on commercial patrol.
- The recreational fishery slowed down significantly, with approximately 3 bushels of quahogs and 15 bushels of oysters being harvested.

Enforcement

- Grant inspections continued in earnest, with only approximately 20 remaining.
- 14 overwintering agreements have been received.
- We have been doing spot checks on commercial harvesters, which resulted in one written seed warning to a senior permit holder.
- We received another complaint about a boat fishing north of the no drag line. We observed the boat fishing and from the pier it did look questionable, but perspective is always a concern. We contacted the boat and talked to him as he executed his fishing operations. We also verified that he was fishing correctly with a walk to the end of the breakwater.
- Two recreational fishermen got stuck in the mud on the Indian Neck side of Chipman's Cove and two grant holders helped pull them out.

State and Town Relations

- Constable Civetta attended the Dredging Task Force meeting.
- Civetta and Asst. Constable Johnny Mankevetch attended a workshop on alternative shellfish project led by Barnstable County. A shucked oyster product, promoted during the fall as a marketing effort to move more oysters, seemed the most promising to us.
- Civetta attended the Mass. Shellfish Officers Association winter meeting in Hingham.
- Civetta met with the Shellfish Advisory Board and presented the proposed WSD FY20 budget.
- Civetta met with the Town Administrator about WSD's FY20 proposed budget.
- Civetta attended a SelectBoard meeting regarding a review of WSD's FY20 proposed budget, which the members approved with specific increases.
- Civetta created a quick overview memo for the Town Administrator of a potential five-year plan for WSD activities.

Propagation

- By the end of the month, we had received a total of nine loads of sea clam shells, which will overwinter at the transfer station and be used for cultch around the harbor in late spring.
- We documented our summer cultching efforts in the Herring River for the Conservation Commission and National Park Service.
- The department received a few more donations of legal size oysters from grant holders, which we placed along the Indian Neck commercial and recreational areas.
- We held two Americorps project days in December. On the first one, one group helped sand and paint the new barge at Bay Sails Marine and the other cleaned up and organized our area at the sand pit. On the second one, they made a couple hundred oyster grow bags and moved them all to the sand pit. We are locking the gate there.
- We are making progress on establishing a contract with upland land owners for our propagation bed. We mapped out GPS coordinates, and Town Counsel advertised the no-cost agreement.
- We continued moving oysters from our propagation bed to Chipman's Cove and aquaculture gear to the sand pit.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Civetta, Shellfish Constable